

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 28, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Record of Interview

On December 27, 2006, an interview was conducted by telephone between Examiner Lisa Hashem and the undersigned. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting this interview. The details of the interview are set forth in the Interview Summary document made of record.

Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-8 and 25-84 are now pending.

Claims 9-24 have been withdrawn from consideration as the result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. No “new matter” has been added by the Amendment.

In view of the Examiner’s earlier restriction requirement, the Applicant retains the right to present claims 9-24 in a divisional Application.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-8 and 25-84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over 6,487,278 by Skladman et al.¹, in view Rigaldies et al.^{2 3} This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.),

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.⁴

The Examiner states:

Regarding claim 1, Skladman discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a wide-area network (see Abstract; Figs. 1a and 1b), comprising: one or more corporate communication platforms or enterprise system that provides services to users within a predetermined enterprise, such as a business or government organization (Fig. 1b, 22) coupled to a switched backbone or Internet (Fig. 1, 56) via a router (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 6-7), integrated with a PBX or LDS (Fig. 1a, 48) via a PBX interface or PSTN (Fig. 1a, 62) (col. 3, lines 5-47), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache or voice-mail server (Fig. 1a, 50); and a plurality of system communication platforms or disparate messaging systems inherently coupled to said switched backbone (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 21-34), wherein one such system communication platform or unified messaging center (Fig. 1a, 26) comprises a master message mailbox or unified message server (Fig. 1a, 64), wherein said slave message mailbox cache is synchronized with said master message mailbox (col. 4, line 9 - col. 5, line 6); each of said one or more corporate platforms assigned to one of said plurality of system communication platforms and each of said plurality of system communication platforms assigned to zero or more of said one or more corporate communication platforms (col. 3, lines 15-19; col. 6, lines 21-34).

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,487,278 to Skladman et al.

² U.S. Patent No. 6,792,085 to Rigaldies et al.

³ Office Action dated June 28, 2006, ¶ 6.

⁴ M.P.E.P. § 2143.

Skladman does not disclose said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox.

Rigaldies discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a local-area network (see Abstract; Fig. 1), comprising:

a communication platform (Fig. 1, 10) coupled to a switched backbone (LAN) integrated with a PBX (Fig. 1, 400) via a PBX interface or PSTN (Fig. 1, 420), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache or workstation mailbox (Fig. 1, 150); and

the platform comprises a master message mailbox or voice-mail server (Fig. 1, 200), wherein said slave message mailbox cache (Fig. 1, 150) is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time (col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 20, lines 19-33) with said master message mailbox such that all changes to said slave message mailbox are reported immediately to said one such system communication platform and at least some changes to said master message mailbox are reported immediately to the corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache (col. 7, lines 30-63; col. 8, line 61 - col. 9, line 1; col. 9, lines 16-27; col. 10, lines 26-45; col. 11, lines 19-32; col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 14, lines 50-57; col. 15, line 59 - col. 16, line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Skladman to include said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox as taught by Rigaldies. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a unified messaging system comprising a slave message mailbox cache that receives messages from the master message mailbox instantly and the messages in the master message mailbox are also replicated in the slave message mailbox cache in order for a user to only check one corresponding mailbox of an individual user. The slave message mailbox cache is also local to the user and easily accessible by the user.⁵

With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the present claims over the art of record, rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection moot.

The Examiner has equated voice-mail server 200, shown in FIG. 1 of Rigaldies et al., with the master message mailbox of Claim 1. The Examiner has also equated workstation mailbox 150, shown in FIG. 1 of Rigaldies et al., with the slave message mailbox cache of Claim

1. Rigaldies et al. discloses a one-to-one correspondence between voice-mail server 200 and workstation mailbox 150 shown in FIG. 1 of Rigaldies et al. For example, Rigaldies et al. recites:

... messages are replicated in the workstation 101 and the voice-mail server 200.⁶

Rigaldies et al. also recites:

As a result of the replication of the invention, duplicate messages are stored in each of the workstation mailbox 150 and the voice-mail message store 220. Thus, it should be recognized that the unified messaging system 10 of the invention does require additional electronic storage facilities to retain the duplicate messages.⁷

Whereas independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 as presently amended recite each of said one or more corporate communication platforms assigned to *one* of said *plurality* of system communication platforms, each of said *plurality* of system communication platforms assigned to *zero or more* of said one or more corporate communication platforms. This many-to-one relationship between corporate communication platforms and system communication platform is further reflected in independent claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 as presently amended. Specifically, Claims 1, 25, 33, and 70 have been amended to recite that all messages in said message mailbox that are associated with said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are reported immediately to said corporate communication platform, and changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are not associated with said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are not reported to said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache. (emphasis

⁵ Office Action at ¶ 6.

⁶ Rigaldies et al. at col. 10 ll. 30-31.

⁷ Rigaldies et al. at col. 10 ll. 54-59.

added) As these limitations are not disclosed by the art of record, the Applicant submits the claims as presently amended are allowable over the art of record.

Dependent Claims 2-8, 25-32, 34-69, and 71-84

As to dependent claims 2-8, 25-32, 34-69, and 71-84, the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Request for Interview

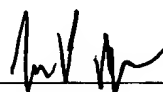
Applicants respectfully request an interview to expedite the prosecution of this application. Submitted herewith is an Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below to schedule a telephonic interview to discuss the matter.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID BROWN
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